

From: Munir Nassar
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 7:26pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I would like to exercise my rights and comment on the proposed settlement in the US vs. Microsoft case. It was proposed by the Microsoft that they donate Computer Hardware and software to schools as a punishment for their illegal monopolistic actions.

When i was younger a punishment was something that i would remember, usually through pain either physical or emotional. I, and I would think nobody else, was ever punished by getting gifts.

It may seem tempting to take Microsoft up on their offer as it would cost them Millions if not Billions of dollars. But it would also distribute the Windows Operating system to thousands of students expanding Microsofts monopoly. Additionally the K-12 educational market has always been Apple Computers' best selling market, to accept this judgement would cause great and maybe even irreparable harm to Apple Computers.

A lot of people believe the proposed settlement is a great thing for our school system as it would bring computers into the hands of the students. A distributor of the Linux Operating System has proposed that Microsoft supply the hardware and RedHat supply the operating system as a suitable punishment. The idea has merit but I propose a small change. Have Microsoft supply a computer to every student in every public school in the country, a move that should liven the economy a bit. And give the schools an option on what type of computer this would be and what operating system, be it RedHat Linux, Debian GNU/Linux, BeOS, OS/2, QNX or MacOS just to name a few. In the operating system market there are many companies that market an alternative to Microsofts Windows but Microsofts' anticompetative practices have kept these alternatives from the hands of the public. It would be fitting that the punishment allow competitors into the playing field.

I short, I think the proposed settlement is a bad idea and I am strongly against it.

-Munir